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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 12-20, 22, 24, 27-30, and 32-43 were pending in the present application. Claims 2-3, 12-13, and 19-20 have been canceled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following responsive remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

In the Office Action of April 6, 2007, the following actions were taken:

- (1) Claims 2-3, 6, 10, 12-17, 19-20, 22, 24, 27, 32-33, and 38-43 were objected to for certain informalities;
- (2) Claims 2-3 and 19-20 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form;
- (3) Claims 2, 19, 30, and 37-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite;
- (4) Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12-13, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 29-30, 32-33, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,074,843 to Nakamura (hereinafter "Nakamura");
- (5) Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12-13, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 29-30, 32-33, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/26892 (represented by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0177943) of Auweter et al. (hereinafter "Auweter");
- (6) Claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12-13, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 29-30, 32-33, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0212667 of Nishiguchi (hereinafter "Nishiguchi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,854,308 to Kuo et al. (hereinafter "Kuo");
- (7) Claims 27-28 and 34-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi in view of Kuo as applied to claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12-13, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 29-30, 32-33, and 36 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,222 to Kitamura et al. (hereinafter "Kitamura") and U.S. Patent No. 6,426,375 to Kubota et al. (hereinafter "Kubota"); and

(8) Claims 14-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims be examined and allowed. Applicants submit that each and every amendment herein, and throughout the prosecution of the present application is fully supported by the specification as originally filed, and that no new matter has been added.

Claim objections

Claims 2-3, 6, 10, 12-17, 19-20, 22, 24, 27, 32-33, and 38-43 were objected to for informalities in antecedent basis. The claims have been amended to so that they are consistent with one another, and in accordance with the recommendations of the Examiner.

The Examiner maintained the objection of claims 2-3 and 19-20 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 2-3 and 19-20 are canceled by the present amendment. Applicant submits that all currently pending claims are in compliance with USPTO Rules.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected 2, 19, 30, and 37-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2 and 19 are canceled by the present amendment. Claims 30 and 37 have been amended by deleting "fluoric acids" in order to expedite prosecution of the remaining subject matter, that is, hydrophilic groups that are  $\alpha$ -fluorocarboxylic acids,  $\beta$ -fluorocarboxylic acids, and combinations thereof.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12-13, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 29-30, 32-33, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura. Nakamura discloses an ink-jet ink comprising a microencapsulated pigment in which the surface comprises a hydrophilic group. Nakamura does not teach polymers including styrene-trifluoroacrylic acid-vinylsulfonic acid

copolymer, styrene- $\alpha$ -(trifluoromethyl)acrylic acid-vinylsulfonic acid copolymer, and styrene-trifluoroacrylic acid copolymer in accordance with the present independent claims 1, 18, and 30 and as required by claims 14-16. As noted above, claims 3, 12-13, and 20 are canceled.

Applicant submits that present claim 1 is novel over Nakamura, as the scope of this claim is coincident with the combined scope of claims 14-16, which the Examiner has acknowledged are allowable. Likewise, claims 18 and 30, which are directed to systems and methods incorporating an ink-jet-ink as recited in claim 1, share this allowable scope. Claims 6, 10, 17, 22, 24, 29, 32-33, and 36 depend from, and are narrower in scope than, claims 1, 18, and 30 and are therefore also not anticipated by Nakamura. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

*Auweter and Nishiguchi in view of Kuo*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12-13, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 29-30, 32-33, and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable separately over Auweter and over Nishiguchi in view of Kuo. As noted above, claims 3, 12-13, and 20 are canceled. In addition, neither Auweter nor Nishiguchi combined with Kuo teach or suggest ink-jet inks comprising a polymer-dispersed pigment encapsulated with a polymer including styrene-trifluoroacrylic acid-vinylsulfonic acid copolymer, styrene- $\alpha$ -(trifluoromethyl)acrylic acid-vinylsulfonic acid copolymer, and styrene-trifluoroacrylic acid copolymer, nor a system or method incorporating such an ink, in accordance with the present independent claims 1, 18, and 30. Since these prior art references fail to teach or suggest each and every element of the above independent claims (and by extension the claims depending therefrom), they do not support a *prima facie* case for a finding of obviousness of these claims. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

*Nishiguchi in view of Kuo and further in view of Kitamura and Kubota*

The Examiner has rejected claims 27-28 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi in view of Kuo as applied to claims 1, 3, 6, 10, 12-13, 17-18, 20, 22, 24, 29-30, 32-33, and 36 and further in view of Kitamura and Kubota. Applicant has

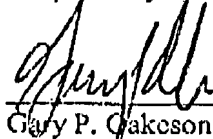
discussed above how the combination of Nishiguchi and Kuo fail to teach or suggest the elements presently required by claim 18 and claim 30, from which the rejected claims depend. Neither Kitamura nor Kubota remedy the shortcomings of Nishiguchi and Kuo with regard to the polymers taught. Therefore, Applicant submits that a *prima facie* case for obviousness of claims 27-28 and 34-35 is also lacking. In view of this, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that all of the pending claims present allowable subject matter and allowance is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after consideration of the above remarks, and such impediment could be removed during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Please charge any additional fees except for Issue Fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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